FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 MARCH 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Fifty-six Iraqi planes attacked an Iranian military camp near Ahvaz 16 March, completely destroying tanks, missiles, and troop concentrations, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The communique also claimed that Iraqi planes patrolling the Gulf shot down an Iranian F-4 the same day. On the ground, Iraqi troops repelled four Iranian attacks on the forward positions of the Iraqi VII Army Corps front 15 March, the communique added. IRNA cited an Iranian military spokesman's denial that an Iranian F-4 was shot down on 16 March.

Iran asserted that Iraqi planes attacked villages in the Ahvaz area 16 March, killing 3 civilians and wounding 15 others, IRNA reported; while in a statement to INA an Iraqi military spokesman "strongly denied" such claims.

In other military developments, Iraqi planes attacked two "large maritime targets" 17 March, INA announced, citing an Iraqi military spokesman. Earlier Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses over the weekend claimed that Iraqi naval units destroyed an Iranian bridge in the Ra's Abadan area 14 March while Iraqi aircraft shot down an Iranian F-4 and said that Iraqi forces completely eliminated Iranian troops from the Chuwartah area.

In contrast, Iran claimed that its forces in the south crushed a "feeble" Iraqi attack "north of the salt lake" 15 March and that its troops in the Panjwin area continued "mopping-up operations" 13-14 March, according to military statements reported by Tehran radio.

In Tehran, the Air Force commander asserted that the Iraqi city of al-Sulaymaniyah is within the range of Iranian artillery, adding that plans are underway to launch a "full-scale offensive" in the region, IRNA reported 16 March. INA meanwhile claimed that the next battle in the Al-Faw region is "imminent," maintaining that the clash will be "disastrous for the invading Iranian forces."

In related political developments, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned a U.S. statement in support of the Persian Gulf states, claiming that the statement contained "threats" that are "unjustifiable, interventionist, and unacceptable," Tehran radio reported. In Kuwait, the Saudi crown prince announced that Kuwait "will not stand alone in case the war spilled over into its boundaries," KUNA reported 16 March, citing *AL-WATAN*.

Libya

U.S. Naval Exercises — JANA noted the start of "hostile and terrorist maneuvers" by U.S. naval and air forces off the Libyan coast 15 March.

Sudanese Prime Minister's Visit — Sudan supports Libya's "legitimate defense" against any attack which violates its territory or its "sovereignty over the Gulf of Sidra," voice of the Greater Arab Homeland reported, citing a statement issued 14 March at the end of a 3-day visit to Libya by Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Jazuli Daf'allah and other Sudanese officials. In Khartoum, the deputy commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces announced that Libya will soon provide arms to Sudan as part of a military cooperation agreement, according to an interview in *AL-AYYAM* reported by SUNA.

French Hostages in Lebanon

The "Organization of Revolutionary Justice" claimed responsibility for the 8 March kidnapping of a four-man French television crew, Beirut radio reported 14 March. The organization delivered copies of the press credentials of two of the kidnapped newsmen to a Western news agency in Beirut, along with a statement claiming responsibility for the kidnapping and warning France to halt its political and military involvement in Lebanon, the report added.

In France, French envoy Razzah Ra'd revealed that the French hostages could be released "immediately" if Iran and Syria provided "guarantees" to the kidnappers, AFP reported 16 March. However, the Hizballah organization, in a statement broadcast by the Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon 17 March, denied that it had agreed to this condition or that it had been involved in the kidnapping.

In related developments, Voice of Lebanon radio reported 16 march that the French hostages had been transferred to the Al-Biqa' area to thwart any attempt to free them. Damascus radio announced that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received two envoys of the French president 15 March, while AFP revealed 14 March that France had instructed its ambassador to Tunisia to fly to Tehran in order to discuss the Lebanese crisis with the Iranian authorities. In Baghdad, the two Iraqi dissidents pardoned by President Saddam Husayn on 12 March returned to their families, AFP reported 15 March.

OPEC Affairs

The 77th extraordinary OPEC Conference meeting began in Geneva 16 March with all 13 member countries represented, OPECNA reported. The agency later reported that in their 16 March session, the oil ministers discussed reports by OPEC's market monitoring committee and its special committee on defending OPEC's "fair share" of the oil market. Meanwhile, Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani told Britain's *THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH that oil prices could fall to $8* per barrel. Shaykh Yamani questioned the value of a proposal by Libya, Algeria, and Iran on halting oil production for up to 4 weeks, adding that "it is just not practical to ask the weaker producer nations to join in a longer shutdown." Yamani said the

drop in oil prices had caused a "very grave situation" in some OPEC countries, noting that some of these states "could be heading for political upheavals."

In a separate development, the Kuwaiti oil minister told the conference participants that Kuwait is prepared to cut its oil production below its OPEC quota provided the other OPEC members abide by a new production quota system, KUNA reported.

DRA

UN Commission Report on Human Rights — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejected a UN commission's report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, terming it a "collection of groundless slanders and accusations" to which "no impartial person" will pay any attention, Kabul radio reported.

Bombing of Bus — In Herat, a bomb planted by "counterrevolutionary criminals" exploded on a city bus 12 March, killing eight people and injuring nine others, according to an earlier Kabul radio report.

Pakistan Protests Shelling — Pakistan lodged a "strong protest" with the DRA charge d'affaires in Islamabad over the DRA artillery shelling of two areas in Khurram Agency 11 and 14 March, Karachi radio reported. The 11 March bombardment killed two Afghan refugees and injured three others, the report added.

Syria

A truck full of explosives blew up in Damascus' Al-'Abbasiyin Square 13 March, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The radio subsequently claimed that over 100 people were killed or injured in the blast, which occurred a short distance away from a building occupied by "Soviet experts."

Saudi Arabia-PLO

King Fahd received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Riyadh 15 March, SPA reported. AFP later reported that following 'Arafat's visit, Saudi Arabia gave the PLO representative in Riyadh a check for $28.5 million in continuation of its regular support for the organization.

Egypt

Gunfire heard in the Cairo suburb of Al-Ma'adi the morning of 17 March was due to scheduled routine military exercises at a camp in the area, an Egyptian security source told INA. However, MENA subsequently cited an Interior Ministry source as saying that guards at Turah prison had fired warning shots into the air when two inmates made an escape attempt the morning of 17 March.

Sudan

Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces captured a Sudanese Army garrison along the Jonglei Canal, SPLA radio reported 15 March.

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Foreign Ministry Condemns UN Human Rights Report
LD142252 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari/Pashto 1600 GMT 14 Mar 85

[DRA Foreign Affairs Ministry Statement]

[Text] The United Nations Human Rights Commission opened its 42d regular session at the beginning of February this year, in the UN European Headquarters.

According to its duty, the commission studies the condition of human rights in the world and assesses the protection or violation of the human rights in the various countries.

World imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, in order to divert the world's attention from the undeniable truth of the violation of the rights of people and nations through colonization and recolonization; and in order to keep the international community away from the truth of the tragic discriminatory policies of the capitalist countries, from the resentful nature of the apartheid policy, and from the horror and massacre of the people of Palestine and other occupied Arab Lands by the army of the Israeli Zionist regime, are striving to include untrue and distorted materials in the agenda of the UN Human Rights Commission, in a manner far from morality.

On this basis and in continuation of its vain efforts, world imperialism once again has included the so-called subject of the violation of human rights in Afghanistan in the work of the 42d UN Human Rights Commission. By using old tactics, threats, and pressure on many of the commission members, imperialism has imposed a resolution on the commission which is absolutely unfounded and untrue.

There is no doubt that the human rights commission, in the past and during the present meeting, has issued valuable and useful resolutions against human rights violations which occurred on various occasions and in various places, which the DRA has supported according to its basic policy. Unfortunately, the resolution that was issued in regard to the situation around Afghanistan will damage its prestige.

It first must be mentioned that the maintenance, preservation, protection, and development of human rights in Afghanistan have evolved to such a stage that no honest person can deny them.

The revolution has brought our toiling people the good news of the construction of a just society, social progress, respectful life and welfare, and has guaranteed respect for man, respect for human rights, and complete equality of rights among the subjects and nationalities residing in the DRA.

According to the deep respect for the preservation of the human rights in Afghanistan, the guarantee and preservation of human rights have been confirmed in the most important documents on party objectives and in government legislative documents.

According to policy of progress and love for mankind, the DRA has joined creditable international documents on human rights such as the International Treaty for Civil and Political Rights; the International, Economic, Social, and Cultural Treaty; and 10 other valuable documents. The DRA has joined 11 of 22 basic agreements in the sphere of human rights, has signed 1, and has considered joining another treaty. The orders of these documents have been included in the best manner in the DRA state laws, and practical steps have been taken toward their implementation.

The Basic Principles of the DRA, which serve as a temporary constitution, is one of most democratic documents of its kind and has guaranteed the widest rights and freedoms for the country's people. International reaction and imperialism, by misrepresenting the facts about the condition of human rights in Afghanistan, are trying to cover their shameful intervention — sending deadly weapons to the DRA, training and arming terrorist counterrevolutionary bands, and sending them to our peace-loving country for murder and destruction, which is openly contrary to all the internationally accepted principles and standards and is an obvious violation of the human rights of our compatriots. They are introducing into our country criminals and murderers as the so-called resistance groups and mujahidin, whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of innocent and defenseless men, women, and children. But, the world's people who know now the truth of the maintenance, preservation, and protection of human rights in Afghanistan will not pay any attention to this nonsense.

In regard to the nature of the report prepared by a so-called special reporter — whose militaristic, fascist, and antiprogress inclination imperialism has used to make him the reporter of so-called human rights condition in Afghanistan — we can say that, by taking a quick look at the text of the report, which is a collection of groundless slanders and accusations, one can see it is groundless.

The reporter looks at the state of human rights violations in Afghanistan through the eyes of the leaders of the savage counterrevolutionary bands who themselves are the direct perpetrators of human rights violations in the country, instead of reflecting the truth as it is; instead of mentioning the progressive achievements of the revolution; instead of mentioning the great and important event of the current year, the election for the loya jirga, this great jirga of the country, the high tribal jirga, and the election for the local and state adminstrative organs of power, which is the best and the safest guarantee for the broadening and consolidation of democratic legislation and the maintenance of human rights in the country; instead of talking about the broadening of the DRA Revolutionary Council and the inclusion of creditable representatives from all strata and classes and nationalities residing in the country in this high leading state body; and instead of mentioning as a positive step the foundation of the DRA lawyers society, which will work toward the implementation and broadening of legislation in the country.

In the so-called report, anxiety was expressed over subjects such as women, children and the new training and education system. The world's people are aware that is the victorious April Revolution, which for the first time confirmed the respect for the country's women and children in the highest legislative document — that is the DRA Basic Principles — and has proved it in practice. The expression of anxiety for the new training and education system, which has been put into practice after all-

round scientific assessment, cannot be considered anything other than a narrow-minded view.

Surely no impartial person will pay any attention to such a ridiculous report and will consider it a hostile expression of hostile feelings against a nation which stands to free itself from the old ties of feudalism and semifeudalism and from the plunder of colonialism.

The DRA Foreign Affairs Ministry considers the approval of these so-called resolutions contrary to accepted international norms, contrary to the usual procedure of the Human Rights Commission, and an obvious violation of Item 7, Article 2 of the UN Charter, and declares that the resolution lacks any legal or moral validity and calls the so-called prepared report forged and groundless, and rejects it.

Foreign Minister Dost Meets With UN Envoy

LD151647 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, 15 Mar (BAKHTAR) — Shah Mohammad Dost, the Foreign affairs minister, continuing the talks that have been taking place the last few days, met and exchanged views with Diego Cordovez, the envoy and assistant to the UN Secretary General, this morning and this afternoon at the headquarters of that ministry.

Diego Cordovez arrived in Kabul this morning around 1100 hours (local) from Islamabad.

Sarwar Yuesh, Vice-minister, Sakhi Daneshjo, adviser to the Foreign Affairs Ministry; Deputy-head of protocol of Foreign Affairs and the head of the UN Development Program in the DRA, were present at Kabul international airport to welcome Diego Cordovez and his delegation.

BAKHTAR Deplores U.S. Navy Stopover in Pakistan

LD170720 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 16, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The U.S. Seventh Fleet landed in Karachi for four days of "rest and recreation."

The people and political parties of Pakistan have protested against the policy of the Islamabad regime, which has converted the territory of Pakistan into a bridgehead of American military operations against the countries of the region.

Aqbal Haider, one of the leaders of the opposition of Pakistan has said that the visit of the U.S. 7th Fleet to Pakistan is contrary to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement. This is the first time that Pakistan, which is an Islamic and non-aligned country, has invited the U.S. Navy to Karachi for "rest."

This is indicative of the fact that the Washington administration, in exchange for U.S. military and economic aid, is extensively using the territory of Pakistan for achieving its strategic military objectives.

The local press of Pakistan stressed that Ziaul Haq, in exchange for American military aid to Pakistan, has placed the military bases in Peshawar, Gawader and Sargoda at the disposal of the United States. The U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in Pakistan enjoys adequate facilities for carrying out its military activities.

Forty U.S. F-16 fighter planes, capable of carrying nuclear weapons, are concentrated in eleven newly built airports in Pakistan.

Washington administration, in order to have a free hand to apply its militry strategy in Asia, has signed a new military deal with Zia's regime worth 6500 rpt 6500 million dollars.

The United States, in addition to its military and economic aid to Islamabad, has encouraged the regime for the production of nuclear bombs and is extensively using Pakistan as a springboard of aggression against the DRA and for the continuation of military provocations against India.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and India have shown concern for the grave consequences of equipping Pakistan with the most modern American weapons, including nuclear weapons. But the Islamabad regime not only has not terminated its provocations against India and its aggressions against the DRA but it is heightening tension in the region in the interest of the U.S. military strategic objectives and for the suppression of national and progressive movements.

The people of Pakistan and the countries of the region condemn the landing of the U.S. 7th Fleet on the shores of Pakistan as a military provocative action.

Eight Killed, Nine Injured in Herat Bomb Explosion

LD141710 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Counterrevolutionary criminals have again committed a new savage and unforgivable crime against innocent civilians. Eight of our innocent compatriots in Herat City have been martyred and nine others, including women and children were wounded in a bomb explosion onboard a city bus the day before yesterday.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that those injured in this incident were taken to hospital immediately for treatment.

Troops Seize Weapons, Ammunition in Kabul Province

LD131726 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] The BAKHTAR Agency, quoting a source of the country's security forces, reports that as a result of successful operations by the tribal regiment of Qala-e Dasht village, Shakardara District, helped by the people of that village, a medium range rocket-launcher with three rockets, a mortar, 18 Chinese Kalash-

nikovs and a box of ammunition, and 18 .303 rifles were seized by the country's security forces.

Tori Khail Tribe Kills 30 'Counterrevolutionaries'

LD170735 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 16, Bakhtar — The waves of explosions and armed attacks by the valiant youth of Tori Khail tribe of RM agency (a territorial-adminstrative unit located in the free tribes region in Pakistan) against the interventions of Pakistani regime in the regions of free tribes and Afghan counter-revolution are intensifying day by day.

Thirty Afghan counter-revolutionary elements were killed and forty one of them wounded as a result of explosions carried out by the youth of Tori Khail tribe in several areas of Khurram agency.

Apart from the human losses, a large number of vehicles carrying arms and ammunition for the Afghan counter-revolution intended to be sent into the territory of the DRA were also destroyed as a result of mine explosions.

BAKHTAR Reports Fighting in Pakistani Province

LD170725 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 16, BAKHTAR — Fierce fighting is going on between the people of Waziristan and the military forces of Pakistan, said Mailk Badar Khan, one of the chiefs of the Maseed tribe, to a BAKHTAR correspondent.

He added that every dwelling and street of the region have been changed into a resistance entrenchment against the Zia government. The Pakistani police and militia cannot easily move through the streets of the region, because the region is completetely controlled by the people, Malik Badar Khan said. In the wake of the incursion of Pakistani forces on Khyber, Malik Badar Khan said, a resolution was adopted at a jirgah of the chiefs of the region that the camps of the Afghan counter-revolutionaries should be dismantled from the region and they should be fully prepared to confront the military forces of the regime.

Following the resolution of the jirgah, the camps of the counter-revolutionaries were demolished in southern Waziristan. 25 rpt 25 armed personnel linked to Gulbuddin band were arrested and detained by the people, Malik Badar Khan said.

Malik Badar Khan, who is the commander of the militia of Waziristan said that the rulers of Pakistan are intensifying their interference in the internal affairs of Pashtuns and these interferences will only result in the disgrace of the regime.

According to the resolution of tribal Jirgahs, he went on to say, the tribes will carry on their decisive struggles against the regime till it accepts their demands.

The commanders of the militia said that the frontiers between the two countries are shielded by the militia and it will not allow any one to pass into Afghanistan through the frontiers for subversive activities.

Gandhi Leaves for Palme Funeral, Talks With Leaders

BK141621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, left for Stockholm this evening to attend the funeral of the late Swedish prime minister, Mr Olof Palme. The funeral takes place tomorrow. The prime minister is accompanied by the industry minister, Mr M.D. Tiwari, and senior officials. Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said while in Stockholm he will have talks with the leaders of the five countries, which, along with India, had made an appeal for nuclear disarmament. Asked by newsmen whether he will meet some other world leaders also, the prime minister said it depends on who are there and the time available. Mr Rajiv Gandhi is scheduled to return on Sunday.

Gandhi Returns, Calls Reagan Letter 'Positive'

BK160925 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] The prime minister says a letter was received yesterday from President Reagan in response to the 6-nation call for nuclear disarmament. For the first time, there is something substantive in the letter and that sense it is positive. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was talking to newsmen at Delhi airport this morning on his return from Stockholm after attending the funeral of Mr Olof Palme. He said for a change we can now actually do something in relation to the U.S. stand; we can actually talk with them.

The prime minister said President Reagan's letter is a technical letter mentioning specific problems that they have. It is for the first time that the United States has done this. Mr Gandhi said we have to wait until we get a report from experts on the contents of the letter. The prime minister disclosed that a letter on this subject has also been received from the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev.

Answering questions, he said while in Stockholm he had discussions with the Soviet prime minister, Mr Ryzhkov; the Pakistan prime minister, Mr Junejo; the prime minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Mugabe; President Ortega of Nicaragua; the Swedish prime minister, Mr Carlsson; the UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar; the Commonwealth secretary general, Mr Ramphal; as well as leaders of the four countries which, along with India and Sweden, had appealed for nuclear disarmament.

Mr Gandhi said he had pointed out to the Pakistan prime minister what they were doing in Kashmir and with regard to the Sikh terrorists. He had also pointed out how progress has not been taking place in improving relations between India and Pakistan as discussed by the leaders of the two countries earlier. Mr Junejo told Mr Gandhi that they would do something about it.

Bhagat Supports Efforts For Peace in Cambodia

BK160939 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, has said that India would extend all possible help to solve the Kampuchean problem. Talking to newsmen in Jakarta this morning, he said India supports all efforts to bring peace to Kampuchea and establish a free, independent, and sovereign government there without outside intervention. He welcomed the Indonesian foreign minister, Dr Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja's initiative to find a peaceful solution to the problem.

Expressing satisfaction over the detailed talks he had with President Suharto and other Indonesian leaders, Mr Bhagat said both sides regard the postponement of the proposed international conference on the Indian Ocean as a setback. The two countries will jointly work for early convening of the conference, he said.

Mr Bhagat described his discussions with Dr Mokhtar as extensive. He said there is a common desire for enlarging cooperation in economic and trade fields. The Indonesian minister for economic coordination, Mr Ali Wardhana, will soon visit New Delhi for consultations to initiate joint action in this regard. Mr Bhagat said the issues coming up before the meeting of the nonaligned Coordinating Bureau in New Delhi next month also figured in the discussions.

Rao Assumes Home Affairs Ministry Portfolio 14 Mar

HK141350 Hong Kong AFP in English 1331 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 14 (AFP) — Human Resources Development Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has been given the vital Home Affairs portfolio in addition to his current responsibilities, the Indian Government announced here on Friday.

This follows the departure of the previous Home Minister, S.B. Chavan, who was earlier sworn in as chief minister of the western state of Maharashtra.

Observers here predicted Mr Rao, a close confidant of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's mother and predecessor as premier, Indira Gandhi, would hold the Home Affairs portfolio until Mr Gandhi finalised plans for a major cabinet reshuffle after Parliament's current budget session.

Mr Rao, 65, held important portfolios like Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Defence before Mr Gandhi allotted him the newly formed Human Resources Development Ministry in September last year.

Communists Say U.S. Seeking Naval Base in Sri Lanka

BK161613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] The 13th congress of the Communist Party of India, now in session in Patna, has alleged that the United States is using Sri Lanka for getting a naval base in that country and for militarizing the Indian Ocean. In a resolution adopted at the congress today, the party called upon the Sri Lankan Government to stop military action against the innocent Tamil population and seek a peaceful negotiated settlement.

Through another resolution on the U.S. war fleet's recent visit to Karachi, the party said it is clear the U.S. imperialists sought to

tighten the military encirclement of our country with bases in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Diego Garcia, and elsewhere.

The congress demanded that the government should take effective steps to give primary education top priority, make adequate allocation for education, and scrap efforts to restruct university education. The congress demanded scrapping of the long-term fiscal policy, confiscating of black money, drastic cut in government expenditure, and nationalization of industries producing essential commodities.

Delhi Reports Situation, Incidents in Punjab

BK150314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, one scooterist was shot at and seriously injured by two unidentified gunmen in a villae ear (Zera) in Ferozepur District last evening. The gunmen are reported to have signalled the scooterist to stop. On his noncompliance, they fired at him and fled.

According to a delayed report some armed desperadoes raided a farmhouse of the Punjab Congress-I chief, Major General R.S. Sparrow, near Batala in Gurdaspur District on Thursday night. They reportedly snatched a gun from the farm manager and escaped.

Meanwhile, with continuing improvement in the situation in Kapurthala Town the period of relaxation in curfew has been extended 12 hours from 0600 today.

The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has said that the state government will firmly deal with terrorists and maintain peace in the state. Talking to newsmen in Ludhiana yesterday, he said the government has already taken several measures toward achieving this. Mr Barnala revealed that 82 hardcore terrorists have been arrested by the Punjab police and some more would be nabbed soon. The chief minister said that the sector scheme [to keep a vigil against terrorists] introduced in five districts in the state is being strengthened.

Curfew in Batala

BK161601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, curfew has again been clamped in Batala town of Gurdaspur District from 1800 this evening till 08'00 tomorrow morning following some clashes between two groups of people. Earlier, some incidents of arson and looting of shops also took place. According to an official spokesman, the police had to intervene and resort to firing to separate the clashing groups. Some casualties have been reported. More details are awaited.

The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has appealed to all sections of society to maintain peace and amity in the state despite provocations from some vested interests. The chief minister reviewed the situation in Batala with senior police and civil officials in Chandigarh this evening. He directed the state home secretary to rush additional forces to the town to assist the local administration. He also telephonically instructed the district magistrate of Gurdaspur, who is camping in Batala, to maintain communal amity and peace at all costs and deal firmly with the mischief makers. He also appealed to all political and religious leaders to extend full cooperation to the local administration in defusing the situaiton.

In Kapurthala, with the continuing improvement in the situation, curfew was relaxed for (?10) and 1/2 hours today from 0600. According to an official spokesman, the curfew is being restricted from 2100 to 0600.

AFP: 9 Killed, 20 Injured

NC161844 Paris AFP in English 1837 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Excerpt] New Delhi, March 16 (AFP) — Nine people were killed on Sunday and more than 20 were injured in attacks by suspected Sikh militants and in Hindu-Sikh clashes in the troubled northwest Indian border state of Punjab, reports said.

Hindus and Sikhs went on the rampage in the industrial town of Batala, fighting and looting shops, and prompting federal forces to fire warning shots, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported. Five people were reported killed and twenty injured.

Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, whose six-month-old moderate Sikh government is faced with increasing violence by militants, clamped a curfew on the town and ordered in more paramilitary troops.

SRI LANKA

Li Xiannian Ends Visit: Jayewardene Bids Farewell

BK141159 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] President of the People's Republic of China Li Xiannian and Madame Lin Jiamei left Colombo this morning at the end of a 4-day state visit to Sri Lanka. Prior to their departure, there was a ceremony opposite to the Janadhipathi Mandiraya [presidential residence] in Colombo to bid farewell to the distinguished visitors by President Jayewardene and Mrs Jayewardene. They were accorded an army guard of honor. Present on the occasion were Prime Minister R. Premadasa, parliamentarians and other VIP's.

The Chinese leader and party were seen off at the Katunayaka International Airport by minister in attendence Lalith Athulathmudali: Mrs (Srimani) Athulathmudali; the Chinese ambassador, Zhou Shanyan; General Sepala Attygalle, secretary to the Ministry of Defense; and other senior officials.

According to observers, the statements made by President Li Xiannian and President Jayewardene on the visit further consolidates the friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries which dates back to several centuries [as heard]. Two bilateral agreements on economic and technical cooperation and on reciprocal promotion and protection of investments symbolized the friendly relations between the two countries.

President Xiannian said last night that a broad agreement had been reached during an exchange of views between himself and President Jayewardene on the ways to further strengthen friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. He said that there was also agreement on international and regional developments of mutual concern. The Chinese leader expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit to Sri Lanka.

Mr Li Xiannian also said that the people of China and Sri Lanka and their two governments share the strong desire to enhance friendly relations and cooperation. He expressed the hope that with the efforts of the two governments of the people, the deep rooted relationship will achieve still better development.

The Chinese president also said that he was deeply impressed by the Sri Lankan people's traditional hospitality, their sincere (?friendship) for China, and the considerable progress Sri Lanka has made in national development. Mr Li Xiannian was speaking at a banquet he hosted in honor of President Jayewardene and Mrs Jayewardene last night.

Bandaranaike Claims Solution to Ethnic Issue

BK160954 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] The Sri Lanka Freedom Party leader, Mrs Srimavo Bandaranaike, has claimed that she has a solution to the ethnic problem in the country and she is prepared to come out with it only if the Jayewardene government sends her a formal invitation for talks. In an interview with *WEEKEND* in Colombo published today, Mrs Bandaranaike said she felt that the present conflict is of vital national importance and needs to be resolved urgently. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that President Jayewardene has, meanwhile, queried whether the solution as claimed by Mrs Bandaranaike involves amalgamation of the northern and eastern and eastern provinces — a move to which the present government is totally opposed. He was speaking at a function near Colombo yesterday.

Government Suspends Air Attacks For 1 Week

BK141123 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government has decided to suspend air attacks against terrorist hideouts in the Northern Province for a week commencing from tomorrow. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told newsmen in Colombo yesterday that if the response from terrorists was good and the smuggling of arms and men from south India to Sri Lanka were stopped, the government would consider an extension to the suspension of air attacks. The minister said that Sri Lankan refugees in south India, who are unable to return to their homeland due to the ban imposed on fishing, would be permitted to come back from Rameswaran to Talaimannar between 0800 and 1600 local time [0230-1030 GMT].

Mr Athulathmudali also said that the invitation to the Indian foreign secretary was still there and President Jayewardene had fully endorsed it. He said that the Sri Lanka Government believes that the present time is appropriate once again to reiterate its firm and unqualified commitment to a political solution of the current ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. The government believes that a solution must rest upon the fulfillment of the aspirations of all sections of the people. In addition, it should remove the fears and concern of all Sri Lankans. The government accepts without hesitation its responsibility to help create the necessary climate of opinion in the country which could fecilitate such an outcome. However, it stands constrained in that endeavor by the current threat to law and order, to the authority of the duly constitute government, and to the very integrity of the state posed by armed terrorist action.

Security Forces Kill 4 'Terrorists' in North

BK131102 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Four Marxist terrorists were killed and 30 others were captured when security forces raided a terrorist base at (Tunakai) in Kilinochchi yesterday in northern Sri Lanka. According to the news agency LANKA PUWATH, the security forces had raided the terrorist base on a tip-off. On seeing the troops the terrorists opened fire but the security forces repulsed the attack effectively killed four terrorists and injuring six others. Later, the security forces searched the area and captured three more terrorists. They also recovered arms and ammunition and terrorist literature.

Report on Khamene'i 14 March Friday Prayers Sermon
LD141402 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] On the 2000th day of resistance by the heroic Iranian nation against the aggression by the Zionist Iraqi regime today millions of our Muslim compatriots in most parts of the country, by their monolithic participation in the Friday prayers ceremonies and by chanting: "War, War, Till Victory" once again demonstrated their firm resolve for a continuation of the war until final victory. Dispatches by Central News Unit correspondents from various nooks and crannies of the country indicate that Iran's Muslim revolutionary women, who have played an extremely worthy role in the victory and continuation of the Islamic revolution, today too by their participation in inspirational marches towards Friday prayers locations exalted this day and expressed their will for continuing the war until final victory and the overthrow of the Zionist regime of Iraq.

During Tehran's Friday prayers ceremonies, held under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i Tehran's Friday imam in his sermons today, expressing condolences for the martyrdom of the Holy Imam al-Hadi - may peace be upon him! - and also for the demise of Ayatollah Kashani, referred to the bloody incident of the Friday prayers in Tehran last year by saying: The Friday prayers incident was one of those brilliant, unforgettable incidents in the history of our country, since on that day, despite repeated threats by the Zionist Iraqi regime to bomb the Friday prayers location, the worshippers by their inspirational congregation at Tehran University humbled the foe with their courage and valor.

Referring to today's observance of the 2000th day of the war and the Muslim Women's march throughout the country marking the 2000th day of the resistance by the Iranian nation, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i said: Today we are going through the 2000th day since the beginning of the war and we must proclaim to the world that our nation has defended itself for 2000 days. It has defended humanity and the honor of the wronged nations. We have defended our country, our revolution and our territorial integrity which the enemy wished to fragment. We have defended our national personality and also the spirit of fighting against aggression!

Tehran's Friday imam added: The world has accepted oppression and putting up with oppression as a principle; both the mighty oppressors and the poor oppressed have been accepted. The culture of oppression and putting up with oppression has been imposed on the world's people and in the midst of this polluted culture only a single nation has come about which is waging war against bullying, aggression and assault and which shall not rest until the aggressor is put on trial; and that nation is the Iranian nation!

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council also said: Those very people who said nothing when Iraq perpetrated aggression are today saying: "Come and make peace!", and according to them they do not wish this war to have a victor. However, by the grace of God, we will punish the aggressor by our own hand! And today, too, we are witnessing the despair felt by the political world at the continued existence of Saddam. The major world quarters have finally been forced to accept what they refused to accept by the resistance shown by our people, namely that Saddam is on his way out.

Referring to the role played by women in Islam and in the revolution and emphasizing what a sinister plot had been hatched for women by colonialism, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said: The inspirational march staged by our sisters today shows the great movement of Muslim womenhood throughout the country. These women marched throughout Iran today bearing the message: We are ready to continue unceasingly, until final victory, our resistance, courage and selflessness, which constitute the true reserve and genuine guarantee of the resistance and defense put up and carried out by our men and youth.

Giving examples of acts of self-sacrifice by mothers and wives in our society, the president of the Republic said: Where are those people who still do not comprehend these values? When a woman is ready for so much self-sacrifice for her faith and revolution, is it this woman who is at the apex of freedom or is it that woman whose entire efforts are directed towards parading herself as some commodity for the covetous eyes and hands of men?

In conclusion, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, while emphasizing the complete readiness of our youth on the fronts and the continued dispatch of the Fajr divisions and 2000 member forces to the fronts, said: The feeling of feebleness is visible in the cornerstones of the Iraqi regime, but the truth is that the victory of the Islamic Republic is intolerable to a great many people; and it is not at all far-fetched for someone to commit an insane act somewhere and our nation should be prepared, since the only thing that would thwart the enemy is our preparedness. Our presence on the fronts makes our enemy lose heart. We see our future prospects as extremely rosy and — God willing — our nation will deliver its decisive and crushing blows at the appropriate time, thereby destroying this malignant tree of corruption.

Speaks of Oil Crisis
GF141334 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Arabic Friday sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Tehran Friday imam, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, at Tehran University on 14 March — recorded]

[Excerpt] An important issue, at this time, is the fate of oil and OPEC. As the convening of the OPEC meeting approaches, I find it necessary to address my speech to the people, and again to the officials in the oil-producing countries, and warn them of the serious conspiracy represented by the drop in oil prices which is directed against the oil-producing countries, including the Muslim countries, which constitute a majority of the producers. It is actually a conspiracy against the Muslim peoples and their interests. There is one method to confront this conspiracy — resistance and firmness. We, the oil-producing countries, possess the means to resist and be firm. Oil is the commodity which the industrial world and the Western technological empire need to

survive and prosper. The industrial world, which considers itself the mightiest human phenomenon in history, will possess nothing without oil. The world owes its activity, warmth, and light to oil.

We, the oil-producing countries, hold in our hands the greatest part of the key to the Western world's strength and pride. They are attempting to get our oil at a price still cheaper than they used to pay. It is not fair that the people who possess the oil in the Persian Gulf, North Africa, and Latin America, and other parts of the Third World should live through economic ordeals and suffer hunger and poverty, while at the same time their oil wealth is presented as an offering to the arrogant idols in Europe, America, and other powerful parts of the world.

O Muslim and Arab peoples. O leaders and officials, we can confront this conspiracy through steadfastness and unity of ranks. Those who do not adopt such a stand are traitors to their people, and to all of the oppressed and wronged peoples. For our part, we will never back down from this stand. We are determined, God willing, to do all that is in our power to achieve our logical and just goal, whatever happens.

IRGC Commander Delivers Friday Presermon Speech

LD141511 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, [IRGC] delivered the presermon speech in today's Friday prayers ceremony. He began by referring to the 2,000th day of the Iranian nation's resistance to international arrogance on the imposed war battlefield. He said: 5 and 1/2 of the 8 years [as heard] since the victory of the Islamic Revolution have been war years. For that reason, the course of the revolution is going through the war. The revolution's supporters are those who are with the course of the war. Those who stand against this sacred defensive course stand against the revolution.

He went on by noting the objectives of international arrogance in its confrontation with the Islamic Revolution and described those plots aimed at nothing other than confronting the Islamic Revolution and striking at it. He said: By imposing the war, international arrogance wanted to finish off the revolution by striking a sudden blow, and to convey to the world's oppressed that they should not get excited over nothing, since the Iranian revolution has been defeated. He then referred to the defeat of the arrogance's aim, achieved with the defeat of the Saddamist forces out of the country, and noted arrogance's second objective in imposing the war. He said: Their second objective was to break the resistance of the Iranian nation. So they ordered Saddam and the Iraqi Ba'th Party to pour enough bombs and rockets on our heads to make us surrender and to go back to America's embrace.

One of the characteristics of this period was the enormous pressures and propaganda against us. But, in the face of that we had no choice but to resist, and by our resistance we defeated that as well. He added: The next stage was the bombing of Kharg, aimed at stopping oil exports. By doing that, they thought our nation's resistance would be broken. Even before striking at Kharg, they prepared the ground with their attacks on the country's cities so as to weaken our nation's morale. But they observed our people throughout the country becoming more mobilized. So that plot was also defeated, and, with their great Jerusalem Day march, our people demonstrated to the world that such plots will come to nothing.

He went on: We are the only nation in the world for whom deadlock has had no meaning whatsoever. The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps then referred to the "Val-Fajr" operation and the liberation of Al-Faw. He said: we amazed the world in that battle, for we overcame the world's intelligence organizations; the world was totally taken by surprise in those operations.

He then described the geographical position of the "Val-Fajr-8" sector and referred to the enemy's repeated defeats in his confrontation with the combatants of Islam. He said: The enemy brought all his resources to bear in those operations. As a result, he lost 35,000 dead or wounded, including several Iraqi Army commanders, thus destroying the Iraqi Army's officer cadre to a large extent. In addition, we have taken 2,500 prisoners and captured more than 120 tanks and personnel carriers intact, which we have used against the enemy himself. There were several T-72's among the tanks captured. Furthermore, more than 600 enemy APC's have been destroyed and some of his units completely wiped out.

As a result of those operations, all the enemy's Persian Gulf coast has fallen to us, and the enemy has been cut off from the Persian Gulf. With those operations, we proved to the world that we are not joking. If you [not further clarified] cannot do anything, we shall ourselves eliminate this hotbed of conspiracy. We shall not allow that hotbed of conspiracy to remain next to us.

In conclusion, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all those who made an effort in those operations. He added: These opportunities should be seized and we should continue to rush to the battlefronts.

Khamene'i Praises Self-Sufficiency Air Force Units

LD142109 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said Thursday that all Muslims should feel confident that they can stand firm and live independently in the world by relying on their rich culture and talents.

In a meeting with personnel of Self-Sufficiency Jihad units of the air force, the president lauded their efforts and called for expansion of such units in other forces.

The president furthermore stressed the need for the armed forces to pay more attention to the issue of self-sufficiency in economic, industrial and production fields.

The air force commander, Colonel Hushang Seddiq and the deputy of Self-Sufficiency Jihad unit of this force each submitted to President Khamene'i a report on efforts of these units for attaining self-sufficiency.

Sheykh ol-Eslam Departs for Libya Conference
LD151840 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Sheykh ol-Eslam, leading a high-ranking delegation, left for Libya this evening at the invitation of that country in order to attend the international conference on resisting Zionism, imperialism, fascism and reaction. During his visit, he will be having meetings with senior Libyan officials on bilateral and regional issues.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Replies to U.S. Comments
LD151717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] In reply to comments by a U.S. State Department spokesman regarding U.S. support for Persian Gulf states and threats [as heard] made by the Islamic Republic of Iran, a spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry said today that it is nothing new for American officials to raise such matters. Their aim is to create unrest in the region, to prepare the ground for the United States' arrogant presence in the Persian Gulf, and to impose new military expenses on regional countries through the sale of more weapons.

He added: Respect for the sovereignty of all countries and noninterference in the affairs of other are among the declared principles of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy. We condemn the United States' threats as unjustifiable, interventionist, and unacceptable; we consider them as part of America's aggressive policies toward the world of Islam. Another clear example of this is the dispatch of aircraft carries to Libyan shores and the staging of provocative military exercises in the Gulf of Sidra in order to frighten our brother Muslim country, Libya.

The spokesman continued: The combative and heroic nation of Iran crushed the great hollow idol of the United States and other powers by rising against the shah's regime, which was in fact an uprising against American rule in this country. Such threats have no effect except that of making our nations' resolve firmer in the struggle against the world-devourers. The time for gunboat diplomacy is over. As our nation has shown, it will cut-off any aggression against it. The United States must know that it does not have the right to interfere in the affairs of the region. and can no longer impose itself as the guardian of the region. In this respect, it is the Islamic Republic of Iran and the other Persian Gulf states that decide. The United States should learn a lesson from its defeat in Vietnam, the fall of the shah's regime, the expulsion of its spies from Iran, and the bitter military and political defeat in Lebanon. It should avoid repeating them.

IRNA Criticizes New Reagan Foreign Policy 'Bible'
LD152141 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 15, IRNA — The U.S. State Department has presented President Ronald Reagan with a new foreign policy bible, containing fresh commandments for the attainment of the Great American virtues of "peace" and "justice."

However, it is in the field of human rights that the White House messiah has been asked to launch a new crusade — heralding an end to the despotic rulers in the developing world.

The contra rebels in Nicaragua, Jonas Savimbi of Angola and others of their tribe who are regarded with fear and suspicion in their own countries have been declared "freedom fighters" while the African National Congress of South Africa is still a guerrilla organisation and Mr Chester A. Crocker, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, has been reprimanded for referring to them as "freedom fighters."

Revealing the new policy, Mr Reagan announced triumphantly in Washington Friday that his administration would oppose dictatorships of the anti-communist right as well as the pro-Soviet left. "The American people believe in human rights and oppose tyranny in whatever form, whether of the left or the right," he said in a message to the Congress.

Mr Reagan reserved his wrath for the leftist dictatorship whom he called a "unique threat to world peace, more severe than authoritarian regimes."

However, independent Muslim observers describe this new anti-dictatorship thrust as an attempt to take advantage of his recent role in what the American papers call "helping to remove rightist dictators in the Philippines and Haiti."

Though, this role was nothing more than providing safe exit out of the country to the tyrants faced with growing anger of the masses they had been exploiting for years with America's blessing.

Even in his eagerness to condemn the 'tyrants' Reagan forgot to mention authoritarian rulers friendly to the United States, such as those in South Korea, Indonesia and Chile.

The State Department officials also declined to say how the new policy would apply to those cases.

The main purpose of the statement, according to administration officials quoted by the press, was to lay a regional security strategy.

The human rights part of it is said to be intended to increase Congressional support for covert military aid to pro-American mercenaries in Nicaragua and other regions of conflict.

Moreover the White House aide has warned that "The statement should not be regarded as a hunting license to undermine friendly states which often face external threats and which can, over time, evolve non-violently to ever more democratic forms of government."

In condemning the left-wing dictators, the American President surprisingly missed the Muslim "fundamentalist" forces of the Islamic World.

Though, he usually never misses an opportunity to do so — perhaps, the changing scene of the Middle East and the rest of

Muslim world has given the Americans a lesson in presentation of policy in this field.

Tehran Arabic Reports Jordanian Forces in Iraq

GF161848 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that two Jordanian mechanized divisions have entered Iraqi territory via Kuwait to join the Iraqi regime in its war against Muslim revolutionaries in northern and southern Iraq.

The report adds that 400 tons of napalm bombs and (Luna) missiles arrived through the Israeli port of Elat, transport lines in Jordan, and the port of Kuwait. It says that transport routes between Kuwait, Basra, and Baghdad are closed against civilian traffic and that military transport vehicles have begun to transport military equipment to Iraq.

According to the report, Egyptian and Jordanian forces for more than 4 years have been waging a war against Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries in northern and southern Iraq and with the Iraqi regime have been taking part in its aggression against the Islamic Republic. These forces were attached to two Jordanian mechanized divisions.

A group of Israeli experts have been sent to Iraq disguised as Egyptian reporters to work for the Iraqi regime on espionage and security plans.

Iraqi Pows Arrive; Kurds Attack Iraqi Troops

LD132050 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov. March 13, IRNA — A caravan of Iraqi prisoners of war taken during the Val-Fajr-8 offensive passed through sixteen northern Iranian cities Thursday and were welcomed by the people.

Witnesses said "warm feelings of the peoples touched the Iraqi pows" who expressed their hatred of Iraqi regime by chanting slogans in their own language: "Down With Saddam" and "Down With the U.S."

In Tehran *RAH-E KARBALA* a publication of Iraqi dissidents said one Iraqi merchant identified as Rashid al-Aini was sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment by Iraq on charges of opposing the Baghdad regime.

The publication said some 40 other merchants have so far been sentenced to death by the Baghdad regime under vague charges.

According to informed sources here Iraqi Kurdish mujahedin destroyed units of the Ba'thist army who were attacking a liberated village in a Kurdish region.

The sources said Iraqi troops raided 'Median' village northwestern Seyyed Kan, but were forced to withdraw after several hours of fighting.

IRNA Reports UK Delivery of 'Chemicals' to Iraq

LD141736 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Britain has delivered 10 cylinders of chemicals weighing 780 kilograms to Iraq according to a reliable report here.

The report said the chemicals have been transported to port Aqaba in Jordan by the ship *Al-Rayan* according to the bill number 'blwk [as received] 3'. Iraqi Marine Transport Company took delivery of the chemicals there on 15 January, it added.

The chemical shipment which had been delivered under the document Number 76.16682 reached Kirkuk on 10 February, the report said.

Britain had previously provided Iraq with chemical weapons.

Air Force Chief Speaks of New Offensive Plans

LD160934 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Air Force Commander Colonel Houshang Seddiq said here Saturday that the northeastern Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah was within the artillery range of the Iranian combatants, adding that plans were underway to launch a larger scale offensive in the region.

Speaking to reporters on the achievements gained in Val-Fajr 8 and 9 offensives (launched in Iraq's Al-Faw and N.E. Sulaymaniyah region), he said that Umm al-Qasr and Khur Abdallah (In Al-Faw region) were within the range of the Iranian fire and that with Iran's control over Ras al-Bisha, Iraq was no more able to attack ships in the Persian Gulf waterway.

The commander praised the bravery of the Iranian Air Force, further saying that skilled Iranian personnel had successfully renovated and repaired complicated systems and equipment, with no foreign assistance.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,409

LD141823 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — An Iraqi helicopter was shot down by ground-to-ground fire of Iranian Muslim combatants in Panjwin operational theater at 07:30 A.M. local time (04:00 hours GMT) Friday (date, time as received), according to a military communique released here Friday.

Communique Number 2409 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed forces says the warring troops engaged in two consecutive days of heavy clashes, and that numerous Iraqi counter-assaults

were repelled in Panjwin region. It noted that Iranian Muslim forces continued their mopping operations in the area, collecting and burying killed Iraqi soldiers Thursday. They also consolidated their positions and opened artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions inflicting more casualties and damage on them in the same region.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, heavy surface-to-air fire of Iranian Muslim troops repelled most Iraqi war planes from the airspace of the region.

In the western fronts, Iranian forces despatched reconnaissance patrols and heavily shelled positions, supply routes and artillery batteries of Iraqi forces, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them, reports the command.

The Joint Staff communique says that Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi forces from setting up barbed wire and carrying out engineering operations in Helaleh.

Iranian Gendarmerie patrols successfully performed reconnaissance missions in Dehloran, western fronts.

In the Southern fronts, the Joint Staff Command says, parts of Iraqi defensive positions as well as several of their observation posts were set ablaze and a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in exchange of artillery fire with Iranian Muslim combatants. Fire from Iraqi tanks were silenced and Iraqi forces were also pounded in the Majnun Islands Thursday.

The communique says that heavy artillery fire of Iranian Muslim soldiers continued pounding positions and gun emplacements of Iraqi forces in the west of the Arvand River inflicting heavy casualties and damage on them.

Bombing of Iraqi Oil Platform

LD141751 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Iranian fighter bombers bombed Iraq's oil platform of 'Alamaya', south of Al-Faw, at 06:30 a.m. local time (03:00 GMT) Friday inflicting substantial heavy losses as well as casualties.

According to reports reaching here from Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters, columns of smoke welled into the sky for hours from the burning in the platform installations.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' is the joint military headquarters of Iran's Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

Communique No 2,410

LD151739 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — Iranian Muslim combatants consolidated their defence lines on strategic heights north western operational theater and repelled all Iraqi offensives and tactical operations over the past few days, preventing enemy advances, according to a military communique released here Saturday.

The Communique Number 2410 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that Iranian Muslim forces in addition to inflicting substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi forces captured several Iraqi soldiers in the past few days' operations in the northwestern operational region.

In the western and southern fronts, the communique says, Iranian forces responded to artillery fire of Iraqi troops inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them.

Iranian ground-to-air field artillery fire repulsed Iraqi aerial violations throughout the war fronts and founded vehicle columns of Iraqi forces around Husayniyah, according to the Joint Staff Command.

The communique says that Iran's Gendermerie forces silenced Iraqi artillery and disrupted their engineering operations across the Arvand River inflicting considerable casualties and losses on them.

Meanwhile, the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province incurred little damage friday as it was hit by sporadic long-range artillery fire of the Iraqi troops.

Communique No 2,411

LD161616 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Iranian Muslim combatants continued artillery duels with Iraqi forces and prevented enemy reinforcements around Panjwin and elsewhere throughout the northwestern fronts Saturday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them, according to a military communique released here Sunday.

The Communique Number 2411 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says at 10.10 hours local time (06.40 hours GMT) One Iraqi helicopter was downed near Panjwin operation theater Friday.

The Iraqi force fired chemical shells at the city of Khorramshahr, Khuzestan Province, at 22:30 hours (19:00 hours GMT) Friday.

In the western fronts, the communique says, an Iranian patrol unit pounded and harassed several ambushed teams of Iraqi forces in Sumar killing or wounding a large number of them. The Iranian patrols after successfully carrying out their mission returned to their bases safely.

The Command says that exchange of heavy artillery fire between Iranian Muslim forces and Iraqi troops continued in Hoseyniyeh and al-Faw fronts with the Iranian combatants maintaining the upper hand, and inflicting heavy casualties on enemy troops. According to the communique, Iranian artillery fire hit some units of Iraqi tanks which were changing their positions or reinforcing other forces in Nahr-e 'Anbar, Yabis, and West of Jofeyr. Their operations were halted.

Iraq Attacks Villages Near Ahvaz

GF161430 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Excerpt] According to a Central News Unit report, while the warmongering Ba'thist Zionist Iraqi regime denies and dismisses attacking residential areas in it's propaganda, following Iraq's repeated attacks on the residential areas in Shadegan and Arab villages around it, at 0935 today [0605 GMT] once again it carried out another criminal act and subjected the villages of Damgheh-e Bozorg and Khosravi, close to Ahvaz, to attacks by a number of fighters. As a result of this dastardly act a number of Arab brothers and sisters from these villages were martyred or wounded. Among them could be seen women and young children. In addition a number of houses belonging to Arab tribesmen of these villages were destroyed or damaged.

Following the air attacks on the residential areas of Damgheh-e Bozorg and Khosravi, relief workers began to remove the bodies of the martyred from under the rubble and transfered the wounded to hospitals. The people assisting the relief workers were chanting crushing slogans of "Death to Saddam," "Death to America," and "War, War Until Victory" and proved that such barbaric acts will not make a dent in their staunch determination to achieve final victory.

Fighting North of Al-Faw

LD151103 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] The combatants of the monotheistic army in the "Val-Fajr 8" operational theater are crushing with the utmost vigor the enemy's military movements. Islam's troops in the operational theater north of Al-Faw, by opening heavy on enemy forces, have pinned down the Ba'thist forces in the operational theater. In the course of battle north of Al-Faw the enemy has sustained further losses and casualties. Islam's combatants are also powerfully deployed in their previous consolidated positions north of Al-Faw and are repulsing and crushing any movement by the Ba'thist forces. According to an IRNA report, Islam's combatants in the course of a heavy battle against enemy forces in the "Val-Fajr 9" operational theater, too, killed or wounded hundreds of other Ba'thist forces, and during yesterday and today in a tough battle with enemy forces in the "Val-Fajr 9" operational theater inflicted further heavy losses and casualties on the Ba'thist forces. In the course of the battle waged by Islam's forces, several tanks, personnel carriers, vehicles and large quantities of enemy ammunition were destroyed and set ablaze.

Iraqis Crushed North of Salt Lake

LD151720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Here is a report from Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of the Islamic revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In continuation of the victorious "Val-Fajr 8" operation, the self-sacrificing forces of Islam this afternoon crushed a feeble enemy move in the north of the Salkt Lake, killing a large number of the personnel of the 2d battalion of the 501st Infantry brigade of the defeated Iraqi forces, and capturing a number of them. During the crushing of this enemy move, more enemy equipment was destroyed.

Denial of Downing of Plane

LD170751 Tehran IRNA in English 0747 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 17, IRNA — Iran Monday categorically denied claims of the Iraqi regime that it had downed an Iranian jet fighter Sunday. A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters speaking to IRNA Monday described the Iraqi claim of downing an Iranian F-4 Fighter, as "mere lies." He said that if allegations of the Iraqi regime were true, it should prove them through showing the pilot and wreckage of the plane on Baghdad T.V.

Communique No 2,412

LD171741 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 17, IRNA — Exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi forces continued throughout the fronts Sunday with the enemy's artillery being silenced and the movements of their armoured and vehicle columns halted according to a military communique here Monday.

The Communique Number 2412 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that Iranian Muslim forces responded to sporadic artillery fire of Iraqi troops in the northwestern fronts killing and wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and thwarting reconnaissance operations of Iraqi patrols., Artillery exchanges were heavier in the Val-Fajr-9 operational region Sunday.

In the western fronts the communique says, Iranian Muslim combatants exchange artillery and mortar fire with Iraqi forces halting movement of an Iraqi motorized unit in Helaleh. Iranian Muslim troops consolidated their positions and opened fire on Iraqi positions in Al-Faw killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and halting transport and engineering operations of Iraqi forces, according to the communique. Elsewhere in the southern fronts, the Command says, artillery duels continued raging somewhat more heavily in Sharani and the Majnun Islands. Meanwhile, the city of Abadan was hit by Iraqi artillery fire Sunday.

Navy Sinks Iraqi Frigate

LD171649 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] According to a report received from the Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, a frigate of the Ba'thist enemy became the target of the accurate and intense fire of our brave Navy warriors and was destroyed. Pieces of [illegible]'s vessel are currently burning on waters of Khur 'Abdullah.